



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Pest Detection and Management Programs – Program Update

Program: *Phytophthora ramorum*

Date: February 28, 2005

As of Friday, February 25, California Department of Food and Agriculture reports that it had completed its delimitation and perimeter surveys of the large Los Angeles County, nursery recently found positive for *P. ramorum*; both surveys were completed by February 4, 2005. Water, soil, and potting media samples were collected on February 9th. Diagnostic results from the delimiting samples are pending. To date one culture sample from a block of 898 *Camellia japonica* plants has been determined by CDFA and confirmed by PPQ to be positive. Four other samples from the block have tested positive by CDFA. All 898 plants in the infected block were destroyed on February 18, 2005.

According to CDFA, the nursery resumed shipping non-host plants from outside the destruction block and buffer areas on February 4, 2005. Host and associated host plants, to the genera level, are still being held and will not be released until all test results are completed.

Between August 2004 and January 2005, the nursery shipped over 87,000 plants to 339 nurseries and retail centers throughout the United States. The nursery has provided APHIS with a list of customers that received plants. APHIS and state inspectors are tracing these shipments. No plants traced forward from the Los Angeles nursery have tested positive.

The nursery had previously been found positive in March 2004. CDFA destroyed infected plants and other plants at risk of infection and the nursery was surveyed for evidence of infection. Following the requirements of the APHIS Confirmed Nursery Protocol, the nursery was partially released to ship some plants in April 2004. It was fully released to ship plants in August 2004.

This is the first report of a positive nursery in 2005.

On February 15, PPQ confirmed a positive detection of *P. ramorum* in a bonsai camellia sample submitted from Pennsylvania. The plant was part of last year's shipments from a San Diego County, California mail order company. The customer received the plant December 2003 and the entire plant was confiscated by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture on June 8, 2004. The plant had not been outdoors.

With the positive report for the bonsai camellia, above, the count for 2004 is 177 positive *P. ramorum* detections in 22 states. Pennsylvania has had two of those detections, both in bonsai camellias from the same company.